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Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) is
chairman of the Senate Select Committee on
Intelligence.

Barry Goldwater

*While upholding the principles
of democracy, congressional
oversight on U.S. intelligence
activities must be careful not to
endanger the work and
well-being of those whose very
responsibility is to ensure the
freedom and security of this
nation.*

Congress and Intelligence Oversight

During the early 1970s, it appeared Congress was going to hamstring the U.S. intelligence services with its public investigations of the alleged abuses within the intelligence community. Today, six and a half years after formation of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and its counterpart on the House side, I believe it is possible to say that the intelligence community is recovering very well.

The reason for this promising outlook is that congressional oversight of our intelligence agencies is working.

The committee that held the public investigation was given one cumbersome title, the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities. Chaired by former Senator Frank Church of Idaho, the committee per-

formance was a sorry demonstration of the way Congress deals with its problems. We spent nearly \$3 million and over 15 months investigating the intelligence community, with a peak staff of over 130 professionals, consultants, and clerical personnel. I wish we could try to do to the Soviet KGB what we tried to do to ourselves.

Clark Clifford, that wise adviser to many presidents over the years, lamented the committee's efforts at the time and I agreed.

That committee was formed to determine the extent of abuses mentioned in the Rockefeller Commission Report, made upon the request of President Ford. I endorsed the Senate's decision because I felt it was necessary to investigate any possible abuses of the privacy of American citizens. After endorsing it, however, I refused to sign the two

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